MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How did the Government ascertain this?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government know that prices have not risen.

Bombay Salt Monopoly.

22. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar has now applied to the Government that he may be granted the sole monopoly for the transport and sale of Bombay salt at Alleppey and Munambam, and, if so, what orders have been passed on that application?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Tamaracolam Salt.

23. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the local salt transported from Tamaracolam old *allom* to Quilon is unfit for human consumption; and

(*b*) if not, whether they will be pleased to enquire whether it is unfit or not?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise. The matter has been enquired into.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether any chemical examination of the salt was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Which salt?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The salt mentioned as transported from Tamaracolam.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Such salt is periodically subjected to chemical examination. If the member wishes to have information as regards any specific consignment, I shall supply it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Municipal President wrote to the Assistant Excise Commissioner to have a sample of the salt transported from Tamaracolam to Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the kind of enquiry made by the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Two newspaper articles appeared alleging that local salt supplied in Quilon was of inferior quality.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question. Mr. Madhava Variar wants to know what is the kind of enquiry made by the Government with regard to the unfitness of the salt transported.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir, I am answering that question. Two articles appeared in the *Malayali*. The Excise Commissioner sent cuttings of those articles to the Assistant Excise Commissioner for report. Mr. G. Nilakantan, the Assistant Excise Commissioner, made an enquiry and reported that the allegation was unfounded, and there the matter ended.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Government made any enquiry direct?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Government did not make any enquiry; only the Excise Commissioner did.

Salt Manufacture in Travancore.

24. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of salt manufactured in South Travancore during the last ten years, giving the figures for each year for each factory;

(*b*) the area under salt cultivation during these ten years, giving the figure for each year separately; and

(*c*) the expenditure under salaries and contingencies for the salt factories during each year for that period?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) Statements* giving the required information are placed on the table.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not the aim of Government to make Travancore self-contained in its supply of salt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is the ideal.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the Government see from the statements placed before this House that in ten years' time the supply of salt from the South Travancore Factories has not improved?

* *Vide* appendix II—pages 46 and 47.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly